

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A solid-shaped detergent comprising particles for detergent, comprising a particle capable of releasing a bubble from an inner portion of the particle in a process of dissolving the particle in water, the bubble having a size of one-tenth or more of a particle size of the particle, and wherein the particles have a dissolution rate of 90% or more, under conditions where the particles are supplied in water at 5°C; stirred for 60 seconds under the stirring conditions that 1 g of the particles are supplied to a 1-L beaker having an inner diameter of 105 mm which is charged with 1 L of hard water having 71.2 mg CaCO₃/L, wherein a molar ratio of Ca/Mg is 7/3, and stirred with a stirring bar of 35 mm in length and 8 mm in diameter at a rotational speed of 800 rpm; and filtered with a standard sieve having a sieve-opening of 74 μm as defined by JIS Z 8801, wherein the dissolution rate of the particles is calculated by the Equation (1):

$$\text{Dissolution Rate (\%)} = [1 - (T/S)] \times 100 \quad (1)$$

wherein S is a weight (g) of the particles supplied; and T is a dry weight (g) of insoluble remnants of the particles remaining on the sieve when an aqueous solution prepared under the above stirring conditions is filtered with the sieve;

wherein the particles have a bulk density of 500 g/L or more;
and

wherein the particles comprise base particles for supporting a surfactant and/or detergent particles prepared by supporting a surfactant to the base particles, wherein said base particle has a localized structure in which larger amounts of the water-soluble polymer and/or the water-soluble salt are present near the surface of the base particle rather than in the inner portion thereof, wherein each base particle comprises 20 to 90% by weight of a water-insoluble inorganic compound, 2 to 30% by weight of a water-soluble polymer and 5 to 78% by weight of a water-soluble salt, wherein said base particle is obtained by the steps comprising carrying out spray-drying of a slurry, and wherein said base particle has a water content of 10% by weight or less.

2. (Previously Presented) A solid-shaped detergent comprising particles for detergent comprising base particles for supporting a surfactant and/or detergent particles prepared by supporting a surfactant to the base particles, wherein each base particle comprises 20 to 90% by weight of a water-insoluble inorganic compound, 2 to 30% by weight of a water-soluble polymer and 5 to 78% by weight of a water-soluble salt, wherein said base

particle has a localized structure in which larger amounts of the water-soluble polymer and/or the water-soluble salt are present near the surface of the base particle rather than in the inner portion thereof, and wherein the particles have a dissolution rate of 90% or more, under conditions where the particles are supplied in water at 5°C, stirred for 60 seconds under the stirring conditions that 1 g of the particles are supplied to a 1-L beaker having an inner diameter of 105 mm which is charged with 1 L of hard water having 71.2 mg CaCO₃/L, wherein a molar ratio of Ca/Mg is 7/3, and stirred with a stirring bar of 35 mm in length and 8 mm in diameter at a rotational speed of 800 rpm; and filtered with a standard sieve having a sieve-opening of 74 μm as defined by JIS Z 8801, wherein the dissolution rate of the particles is calculated by the Equation (1):

$$\text{Dissolution Rate (\%)} = [1 - (T/S)] \times 100 \quad (1)$$

wherein S is a weight (g) of the particles supplied; and T is a dry weight (g) of insoluble remnants of the particles remaining on the sieve when an aqueous solution prepared under the above stirring conditions is filtered with the sieve; wherein said base particle is obtained by the steps comprising carrying out spray-drying of a slurry, and wherein said base particle has a water content of 10% by weight or less.

Reply Under 37 CFR § 1.116
To Office Action of November 3, 2004

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3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The solid-shaped detergent according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the surfactant in the slurry is 10% by weight or less.